

# Maria Anna Vrakas

Painter | [vrakasmarianna@gmail.com](mailto:vrakasmarianna@gmail.com)

b. Thessaloniki, Greece 2003; lives and works in Los Angeles, California

## EDUCATION

2025 **BA Visual & Media Arts Practice and Chemistry**, University of Richmond, VA, USA

2024 **Language & Culture**, IES Abroad Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

May 2023 – Aug 2023

**Art Teacher**, Greek Children's Village, Filyro, Greece

- Led creative engagement activities for the orphaned children who sought an artistic escape towards healing.

Aug 2022 – Apr 2023

**Greek Teacher**, Saints Constantine & Helen Church, Richmond, VA

- Taught Greek language to primary school children focusing on student-centered learning for optimal impact.

## EXHIBITIONS

April 2025 – May 2025

**Natural Art**, Keller Art & Art History Gallery, University of Richmond, VA

- Solo exhibition of paintings created with natural pigments sourced from Greece, integrating Japanese techniques to explore materials and artistic process.

April 2025 – May 2025

**Space Between**, Keller Art Gallery, University of Richmond, VA

- Group exhibition, showcasing two paintings from the *Coordinates* series, *Ikigai* and *Metaxy*.

## PRESS & PUBLICATIONS

April 2025

**"40<sup>th</sup> Arts & Sciences Student Symposium"** by Sandra Shelley

Nov 2023

**The Virginia Literary Review - Fall 2023**, University of Virginia

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

April 2023 – April 2025

**Art & Art History Book Award**, University of Richmond

- Awarded in recognition of dedication and scholarship in the Art & Art History program.

Feb 2024 – Aug 2024

**Arts & Sciences Summer Research Fellowship**, Richmond VA

- Ongoing pigment-making project focused on the exploration of new mediums derived from natural resources, with a specific concentration on geographic and historical identity.

Sep 2021 – Aug 2022

**FAITH Scholarship for Excellence in STEM**

- Awarded scholarship for excellence in STEM, in recognition of academic achievement and commitment to furthering education in science while promoting values of Hellenism.

February 2022

**Phi Eta Sigma Honors**, Richmond, VA

- Received recognition for academic excellence for first-year students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

## SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Artistic Skills: Gallery Installation, Canvas & Material Preparation, Adobe Creative Suit: Photoshop, Premiere Pro

Languages: English & Greek (Native), Japanese (Advanced), Spanish (Intermediate), French (Intermediate)